

REMARKS

Initially applicants would like to thank Examiner Elve for granting an interview and for her time at the interview.

Claims 5-13 are pending in the application.

Claims 5-13 were rejected as anticipated by JUNG 6,816,207. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

The position set forth in the Official Action is that JUNG teaches positioning a mask and that the mask is aligned over a liquid crystal polymer and has light transmitting portions and light shielding portions.

As set forth at the interview, while the above characterization of JUNG appears correct, nevertheless, JUNG does not disclose or suggest each of the recited steps.

Rather, JUNG with respect to Figures 4A-4C discloses a liquid crystal polymer 112 having regions J and K. As seen in Figure 4B, a mask 129 is aligned over the liquid crystal polymer 112. The mask has light transmitting portions 128a and light shielding portions 128b. Each light-transmitting portion 128a corresponds to each first region J of the liquid crystal polymer 112, whereas each light shielding portion 128b corresponds to each second region K of the liquid crystal polymer 112.

After a light exposure process, the liquid crystal molecules in the first region J of the liquid crystal polymer 112 are twisted with a first twist angle. In addition, the liquid

crystal polymers in the second region K of the liquid crystal polymer 112 are twisted with a second twist angle.

However, as pointed out at the interview, in JUNG there is only a single light exposure process. This single light exposure process twists both regions J and K to their respective alignments.

As set forth at the interview, JUNG does not disclose or suggest having a first light exposure operation for each of rectangular domains and positioning a mask relative to the substrate area so that the rectangular domains not exposed by the first light exposure operation are exposed in a second light exposure operation.

Moreover, as pointed out at the interview, JUNG could not teach such double light exposure operation. As seen in Figure 4B of JUNG, the light transmitting regions 128a and light shielding portions 128b of mask 129 of JUNG are of different sizes. Shifting the mask of JUNG to perform a second light exposure operation would entail only part of area J being shielded. The exposure regions of JUNG are not divided into a plurality of rectangular domains of a same shape as recited in claim 5.

As the reference neither discloses that which is recited nor suggests that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 9 also recites the steps of dividing a substrate into a plurality of rectangular domains of the same shape. Claim 9 recites carrying out a first light exposure operation and carrying out a second light exposure operation. The analysis above regarding claim 5 is equally applicable to claim 9 with respect to the first and second light exposure operations.

In addition, JUNG does not disclose or suggest carrying out subsequent light exposure operations by repeating the first and second light exposure operations as further recited in claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9 and the claims that depend therefrom are believed patentable over JUNG.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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